United Nations A/58/L.49

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 55
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on revitalizing its work,[1]

Aware of the need to enhance its authority and role and to improve its working methods,

Decides to adopt the text contained in the annex to the present resolution.

[1] Resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/193 of 17 December 1996, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002 and 57/301 of 13 March 2003.

03-65692 (E) 151203

Annex

A. Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly

In order to enhance the authority and role of the General Assembly, it is decided that:

1. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 30 of the Millennium Declaration,[2] Member States reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations.

2. The Security Council is invited to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.

3. The Security Council is invited to continue with initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the General Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material account of its work, in accordance with resolution 51/193.

4. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

5. The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the General Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.

6. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should meet together periodically with a view to ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. In this connection, the President of the Security Council may wish to discuss the Security Council's plans for thematic debates with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The President of the General Assembly will inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings.

7. In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, following consultations with the incumbent President, Member States and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.

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[2] See resolution 55/2.

8. The work and decisions of the Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the General Assembly.

9. Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.

10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is requested to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.

B. Improving the working methods of the General Assembly

The working methods of the General Assembly need to be further rationalized in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to make its outcomes more productive. Towards this end:

1. The General Committee shall meet throughout the session. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work.

2. The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. The rescheduling of the work of the Main Committees should not lead to additional costs, additional or longer meetings, or staggered work schedules of the Main Committees. With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the options presented by the Secretary-General before making recommendations to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

3. The General Assembly shall convene more interactive debates. At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a

programme of, and format for, interactive debates during that session on items on its agenda.

4. With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the General Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002-2005.[3] The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

5. It would be advantageous for the General Assembly to have a shorter agenda to ensure the fullest discussion of all issues, so that its decisions may have greater impact. Accordingly, the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, trienialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

6. General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented. Where practical, more actions taken by the General Assembly should be in the form of decisions. Preambular paragraphs in resolutions of the General Assembly should normally be kept to the minimum.

7. The heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to continue his efforts to make proposals to Member States for the consolidation of reports on related subjects in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300. The proposals on a shorter agenda should be accompanied by related proposals for a reduction in the volume of documentation.

8. The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended

[3] See paragraph 26 of A/55/6, adopted in resolution 55/234:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustained development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full Bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.

United Nations A/58/L.49/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
18 December 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 55
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Revised draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work,[1]

Aware of the need to enhance its authority and role and to improve its working methods,

Decides to adopt the text contained in the annex to the present resolution.

[1] Resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/193 of 17 December 1996, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002 and 57/301 of 13 March 2003.

03-66523 (E) 181203

Annex

A. Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly

In order to enhance the authority and role of the General Assembly, it is decided that:

1. Member States reaffirm the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] on the central position of the General Assembly.

2. The Security Council is invited to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.

3. The Security Council is invited to continue with initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the General Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material account of its work, in accordance with resolution 51/193.

4. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

5. The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the General Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.

6. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should meet together periodically with a view to ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. In this connection, the President of the Security Council may wish to discuss the Security Council's plans for thematic debates with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The President of the General Assembly will inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings.

7. In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment

[2] See resolution 55/2.

will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.

8. The work and decisions of the Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the General Assembly.

9. Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.

10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is requested to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.

B. Improving the working methods of the General Assembly

The working methods of the General Assembly need to be further rationalized in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to make its outcomes more productive. Towards this end:

1. The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the General Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.

2. The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. The rescheduling of the work of the Main Committees should not lead to additional costs, additional or longer meetings, or staggered work schedules of the Main Committees. With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the options presented by the Secretary-General before making recommendations to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

3. The General Assembly will consider convening more interactive debates. At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates during that session on items on its agenda.

4. With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the General Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002-2005.[3] The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

5. It would be advantageous for the General Assembly to have a shorter agenda to ensure the fullest discussion of all issues, so that its decisions may have greater impact. Accordingly, the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

6. General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented. Where practical, more actions taken by the General Assembly should be in the form of decisions. Preambular paragraphs in resolutions of the General Assembly should normally be kept to the minimum.

7. The heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to continue his efforts to make proposals to Member States for the consolidation of reports on related subjects in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300. The proposals on a shorter agenda should be accompanied by related proposals for a reduction in the volume of documentation.

8. The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their

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[3] See A/55/6 (Introduction), para. 26, adopted in resolution 55/234:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustained development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full Bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.

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General Assembly

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16 December 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 22
Assistance in mine action

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Zambia: draft resolution

Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/159 of 16 December 2002 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has a significant role to play in the field of assistance in mine action, and considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance that constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions, and that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-affected countries,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,

Encouraged by the reduction in the number of new mine victims, but reiterating its dismay at the existing high number of victims of mines and other unexploded ordnance, especially among civilian populations, including women and children, and recalling in this context its resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002

03-65924 (E) 171203

and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/49 of 23 April 2003, on the human rights of persons with disabilities, and 2003/86 of 25 April 2003, on the rights of the child,[1]

Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year, as well as the presence of a decreasing but still very large number of mines and other unexploded ordnance as a result of armed conflicts, and therefore remaining convinced of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat of landmines to civilians as soon as possible,

Noting the inclusion in Amended Protocol II[2] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[3] of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability, and provision of information and technical and material assistance necessary to remove or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and booby traps, and noting also that Amended Protocol II to the Convention entered into force on 3 December 1998,

Noting also the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Fourth and Fifth Annual Conferences of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held in Geneva on 11 December 2002 and on 26 November 2003, respectively,

Noting further the new additional Protocol to address the post-conflict impact of explosive remnants of war adopted by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, held in Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2003, and noting the agreement reached on mandates for further work by the same Meeting,

Noting that additional States have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[4] which entered into force on 1 March 1999, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations therein to one hundred and forty-one,

Noting also the conclusions of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 September 2003, taking note of the reaffirmed commitments that were made by the States parties in the Bangkok Declaration, among other things, to pursue efforts related to the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention, urging all States parties and relevant organizations to participate actively in the work of the intersessional programme established by States parties to the Convention, and noting that the First Review Conference, to

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B.

[3] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[4] See CD/1478.

which the Secretary-General will be invited, will be held in Nairobi, from 29 November to 3 December 2004,

Stressing the need to convince mine-affected States to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines in order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations,

Stressing also the pressing need to urge non-State actors to halt immediately and unconditionally new deployments of mines and other associated explosive devices,

Recognizing the importance of assisting mine clearance in mine-affected countries by ensuring that the necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance are provided to help to remove existing minefields, mines, booby traps and other unexploded ordnance,

Noting that the resources allocated to mine-action activities have increased in recent years, but stressing the need to mobilize additional resources and to secure the best possible utilization of such resources, particularly for victim assistance, in order to meet increasing requirements, and encouraging all States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental and private organizations to continue their efforts in this regard,

Concerned at the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment, as well as the need for effective global coordination in research and development to improve relevant technologies, and conscious of the need to promote further and more rapid progress in this field and to foster international, national and local technical cooperation to that end,

Reaffirming the need to reinforce cooperation and coordination in the area of mine action at all levels and to devote the necessary resources to that end, including resources to support national and regional capacity-building initiatives, where applicable, and the work of the United Nations in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the finalization of an emergency response plan by the United Nations to respond to emergency mine-action requirements,

Welcoming the various established mine-action coordination centres, as well as the creation and existence of international trust funds for mine-action activities,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-action work carried out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in the context of such operations,

Commending the action taken by donor and recipient Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance, as well as their assistance to victims of mines,

Welcoming the role of the Secretary-General in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action[5] and the recommendations contained therein, and takes note with appreciation of the revised mine-action strategy contained in the addendum to the report;[6]

2. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, as appropriate, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries in which mines and other unexploded ordnance constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels, and urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, to assist mine-affected countries in the establishment and development of national capacities in mine action;

3. *Invites* Member States to develop and support national programmes, where appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by landmines and other unexploded ordnance, including among women and children;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments, regional organizations and other donors for their financial and in-kind contributions to mine action, including contributions for emergency operations, peacekeeping operations and for national and local capacity-building programmes;

5. *Encourages* efforts to conduct mine action in accordance with accepted national and international standards, including International Mine Action Standards, and also encourages all States involved in mine action, including troop-contributing countries conducting mine action in peacekeeping operations, to follow these standards, as applicable;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of using an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, in full coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service and with the instrumental support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining;

7. *Appeals* to Governments, regional organizations and other donors to continue and, whenever possible, increase their support to mine action through reliable, predictable and timely contributions, including contributions through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action as well as to national mine-action efforts and humanitarian mine-action programmes of non-governmental organizations, to allow for the timely delivery of mine-action assistance, and stresses that such assistance should be integrated into broader humanitarian, development and other strategies;

8. *Stresses* the importance of international support for emergency assistance to victims of mines and other unexploded ordnance and for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of the victims, and also stresses that such assistance should be integrated into broader public health and socio-economic strategies;

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[5] A/58/260.

[6] A/58/260/Add.1.

9. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine action in their humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building;

10. *Also encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations to take further action to mainstream a gender perspective and integrate gender and age-appropriate considerations in all aspects of mine-action programming, particularly including programmes to reduce the number of child victims and relieve their plight;

11. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action, while emphasizing once again the important role of the United Nations in the effective coordination of mine-action activities, based on the United Nations policy on mine action and effective coordination,[7] and especially the role of the Mine Action Service, stresses also the important role that national authorities and regional organizations can play in this regard, as well as the important role of relevant non-governmental organizations, and underlines the need for the continuous assessment of these roles by the General Assembly;

12. *Emphasizes* the role of the Mine Action Service as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system and its ongoing collaboration with and coordination of all mine-related activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the roles played by other bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with United Nations mine-action policy;

13. *Urges* Member States and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data, as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in mine action;

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Mine Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements, requests the Secretary-General to make them widely available to United Nations mediators, moderators, special representatives of the Secretary-General and others, as appropriate, and calls on all parties to conflict to incorporate provisions on mine action, where relevant, in ceasefire and peace agreements or other relevant arrangements;

15. *Notes* the potential that mine action can have as a peace and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among concerned parties;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to propose, where appropriate, provisions related to mine action in his recommendations to the Security Council for peacekeeping operations;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of undertaking further multisectoral assessments and surveys to better define the nature, scope and impact of the landmine and other unexploded ordnance problem in affected countries and to support the establishment of clear priorities and national economic and development

[7] A/53/496, annex II.

plans of action, underlining the need for participation of populations of mine-affected areas in this regard;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing development by the United Nations of the International Mine Action Standards, with the assistance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and other partners in mine action, to support the safe and effective conduct of mine-action activities, and emphasizes the need for an inclusive process to be followed in the development and review of such standards and the importance of developing in mine-affected countries national mine-action standards based on the International Mine Action Standards;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of building national capacities for and ownership of mine-action programmes, encourages the further establishment of national mine-action centres, including those supported by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund as well as those established under the auspices of the Mine Action Service in emergency situations, and encourages States to support the activities of those centres and the trust funds established for the coordination of assistance in mine action and the promotion of national ownership;

20. *Requests* the Mine Action Service to continue developing the electronic mine information network as a user-friendly repository of mine-related information and as a means for mine-action programmes to circulate on a regular basis to donors and other partners standard reports on the scope and impact of the mine problem, available mine-action resources and capacities and the progress achieved in the field;

21. *Emphasizes* the importance of recording the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcomes the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law;

22. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those that have the capacity to do so, to provide the necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance, as appropriate, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps and other devices, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

23. *Urges* Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-affected countries, to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine-action techniques and technology, within reasonable time frames, so that mine-action activities may be carried out more safely and cost-effectively, and also urges them to promote collaboration at all levels in this regard;

24. *Invites* States to explore the strengthening of internationally negotiated non-discriminatory legal instruments that address landmines and other unexploded ordnance, as well as their victims;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to increase public awareness of the impact of the problem of landmines and unexploded ordnance;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined both in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine action and in the present resolution, including the progress made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and regional organizations as well as national programmes, and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and other mine-action programmes, as well as a report on the first implementation of the emergency response plan and lessons learned from this experience and on the implementation of the strategy for the period 2001-2005;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

United Nations A/58/L.51

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 46
Towards global partnerships

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000 and 56/76 of 11 December 2001,

Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty,

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

03-65941 (E) 171203

Recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policy-making,

Stressing that efforts to meet the challenges of globalization could benefit from enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, in order to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and make concrete contributions to the realization of the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise, and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases,

Encouraging the private sector to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

Recalling that the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] welcomed all efforts to encourage good corporate citizenship and noted the initiative undertaken in the United Nations to promote global partnerships,

Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] in order to promote the effective implementation of Agenda 21[4] at the international level, encouraged partnership initiatives for implementation by all relevant stakeholders to support the outcome of the Summit,

Also noting that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, reiterated, upon the recommendation of the Commission for Sustainable Development at its eleventh session,[5] that partnerships for sustainable

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[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29).

development, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6]

Further noting that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/15 of 21 July 2003, endorsed the conclusion adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session[7] that, at the international level, recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged,

Taking note of the work of the United Nations on partnerships, such as the Global Compact Initiative launched by the Secretary-General, the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-State partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

Stressing that partnerships should focus on the achievement of concrete results,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Stresses* that the principles and approaches that govern such partnerships should be built on the firm foundation of United Nations purposes and principles, as set out in the Charter, and invites the United Nations system to continue to adhere to a common and systematic approach to partnership which, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, includes the following principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system in general and the agencies in particular;

3. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to continue to explore possibilities of enhancing the use of partnerships to better implement their goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, bearing in mind the different mandates, modes of operation and objectives of the bodies and agencies as well as the particular roles of the non-State partners involved;

4. *Recalls* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[6] designated the Commission for Sustainable Development to serve as a focal point for discussions on partnerships that promote sustainable development, and in this context reaffirms the criteria and guidelines for partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up, as set out by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/61;

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[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 6* (E/2003/26).

[8] A/58/227.

5. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] while reiterating that they are a complement to but not intended to substitute for the commitments made by Governments with a view to achieving these goals;

6. *Stresses also* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

7. *Calls upon* all bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the Organization's integrity and independence and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, their web sites and other means;

8. *Stresses* that partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner, and in that regard calls upon partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations in which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the transparency and accountability of partnerships;

10. *Acknowledges* that serving successful partnerships requires specific skills on the part of the Secretariat staff, and calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to support and to develop further such skills, through appropriate training and the sharing of best practices;

11. *Recalls* the relevant paragraph in its resolution 57/300;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Culture of peace

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan and Tunisia: draft resolution

Promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Underlining the importance of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, and recalling that all States have pledged themselves under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Affirming that inter-religious dialogue is an integral part of the efforts to translate shared values, as reflected in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] into actions, in particular the efforts to promote a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations,

Recalling its resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002, in which it invited Member States to expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling also its other relevant resolutions,

Recalling with satisfaction the proclamation of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,[3] bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 55/2.
[3] Resolution 56/6.

03-66032 (E) 171203

Recalling the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization[4] and the principles contained therein,

Emphasizing the need, at all levels of society and among nations, for strengthening freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, respect for diversity of culture and religion or belief, dialogue and understanding, which are important elements for peace,

Reaffirming that freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity, and that in ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image, care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known,

Recognizing all efforts made by the United Nations system to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of culture, religion, belief and language,

Alarmed that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, are on the increase in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that tolerance for cultural, ethnic, and religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred and violence among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Emphasizing that combating hatred, prejudice, intolerance and stereotyping on the basis of religion or culture represents a significant global challenge that requires further action,

1. *Acknowledges* that respect for the diversity of religions and cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation in a climate of mutual trust and understanding can contribute to the combating of ideologies and practices based on discrimination, intolerance and hatred and help reinforce world peace, social justice and friendship among peoples;

2. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law; the universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question;

3. *Reaffirms also* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

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[4] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

4. *Recognizes* that respect for religious and cultural diversity in an increasingly globalizing world contributes to international cooperation, promotes enhanced dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations, and helps to create an environment conducive to the exchange of human experience;

5. *Also recognizes* that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values;

6. *Further recognizes* that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reaffirms* that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society as a whole in the States in which such persons live, and urges States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic and political institutions, organizations and practices so that they are more fully participatory and avoid the marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

8. *Encourages* Governments to promote, including through education, understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, which will address the cultural, social, economic, political and religious sources of intolerance, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so, in order to promote understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly relations among nations and all racial and religious groups, recognizing that education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace;

9. *Calls upon* all States to exert their utmost efforts to ensure that religious sites are fully respected and protected in compliance with their international obligations and in accordance with their national legislation, and to adopt adequate measures aimed at preventing acts or threats of damage to and destruction of these sites;

10. *Urges* States, in compliance with their international obligations, to take all necessary action to combat incitement to or acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by hatred and intolerance based on culture, religion or belief, which may cause discord and disharmony within and among societies;

11. *Also urges* States to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life and to make all efforts to enact or rescind legislation, where necessary, to prohibit any such discrimination, and to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or beliefs;

12. *Further urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies and the military, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate

against persons professing other religions or beliefs, and that any necessary and appropriate education or training is provided;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts of States, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including religion-based and other non-governmental organizations and the media, in developing a culture of peace, and encourages them to continue such efforts, including the promotion of inter-religious and inter-cultural interaction within and among societies through, inter alia, congresses, conferences, seminars, workshops, research work and related processes;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the widest dissemination of the relevant United Nations material related to the present resolution in as many different languages as possible through the United Nations system, including the United Nations information centres, within available resources;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 51
2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius and South Africa: draft resolution

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/135 of 19 December 1994, 50/128 of 20 December 1995, 55/284 of 7 September 2001 and 57/294 of 29 January 2003 concerning the struggle against malaria in the developing countries, particularly in Africa,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council relating to the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular resolution 1998/36 of 30 July 1998,

Taking note of the declarations and decisions on health issues adopted by the Organization of African Unity, in particular the declaration and plan of action on the "Roll Back Malaria" initiative adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Abuja on 24 and 25 April 2000,[1] as well as decision AHG/Dec.155 (XXXVI) concerning the implementation of that declaration and plan of action, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000,[2]

Also taking note of the Maputo Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its second ordinary session held in Maputo from 10 to 12 July 2003,

Recognizing the linkages in efforts being made to reach the targets set in the Abuja Summit as necessary and important for the attainment of the Roll Back

[1] See A/55/240/Add.1
[2] See A/55/286, annex II.

03-66401 (E) 191203

Malaria goal and the targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] by 2010 and 2015, respectively,

Also recognizing the urgent need for scaling up national malaria control programmes if African countries are to meet the intermediate target set by the Abuja Summit for the five-year period of 2000-2005,

Further recognizing that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world can be eliminated with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

Emphasizing the importance of implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] and welcoming, in this connection, the commitment of Member States to respond to the specific needs of Africa,

Commending the efforts of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners to fight malaria over the years, including the launching of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership in 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] and calls for support for the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the Roll Back Malaria partner organizations, including the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as vital complementary sources of support for the efforts of malaria-endemic countries to combat the disease;

3. *Appeals* to the international community to ensure that the Global Fund to Fight the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, Tuberculosis and Malaria receives increased funding to support sound national plans to control malaria in endemic countries to be implemented in a sustained and equitable way that contributes to health system development;

4. *Urges* malaria-endemic countries to increase domestic resource allocation to malaria control;

5. *Encourages* all African countries that have not yet done so to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Summit to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for nets and other products needed for malaria, both to reduce the price of nets to consumers and to stimulate free trade in insecticide-treated nets;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways of stimulating the development of manufacturing capacity of insecticide-treated nets in Africa and, in this connection, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of technology needed to make insecticide-treated nets more effective and long-lasting;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the development of effective vaccines and new medicines to prevent and treat malaria and the need for further research, including through effective global partnerships such as the various malaria vaccine initiatives and the Medicines for Malaria Venture, in securing their development;

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[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] A/58/136 and Corr.1.

8. *Reiterates* the need for expanded public-private partnerships for malaria control and prevention, and in this context, urges petroleum companies operating in Africa to consider providing polymer for the manufacture of mosquito nets at reduced prices as a contribution to rolling back malaria in Africa;

9. *Urges* the pharmaceutical industry to take note of the increasing need for effective combination treatment for malaria, particularly in Africa, and to form additional alliances and partnerships to help ensure all people at risk have access to prompt, affordable and quality treatment;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, developing countries and regional organizations, including the African Union, to conduct in 2005 an evaluation of the measures taken and progress made towards the achievement of the mid-term targets, the means of implementation provided by the international community in this regard and the overall goals of the Decade, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the agenda item entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa".

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 47
Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

The General Assembly,

Recalling the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Noting with profound concern that 42 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, that the HIV/AIDS pandemic claimed 3.1 million lives in 2002 and to date has orphaned 14 million children,

Noting with grave concern that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic,

Noting that women's unequal legal and social status heightens their vulnerability to HIV,

Expressing serious concern about the continued global spread of HIV/AIDS, which exacerbates poverty and poses a major threat to economic and social development and to food security in heavily affected regions while recognizing that poverty, underdevelopment and illiteracy are among the principal contributing factors to the spread of the disease,

[1] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[3] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex and A/S-26/PV.8.

03-66477 (E) 191203

Noting that the epidemic affects every region and while sub-Saharan Africa remains worst affected, serious epidemics are present or emerging in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Also acknowledging the importance of maintaining an emphasis on prevention measures in countries with low prevalence rates,

Recognizing that, while the primary responsibility for responding to HIV/AIDS rests with Governments, the efforts and engagement of all sectors of society are essential to generating an effective response,

Reaffirming that the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in a global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as the importance of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS, including those most vulnerable,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and in particular women and children, are at increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Encouraged that civil society, especially organizations representing people living with HIV/AIDS, women, youth, orphans, faith-based organizations and the private sector, is increasingly involved in national responses to HIV/AIDS, while noting the need for further engagement of these stakeholders at all levels,

Acknowledging the efforts of international humanitarian organizations, including among others the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in combating the epidemic in the most affected areas of the world,

Noting that strengthened political commitment, including at the highest level, as witnessed, inter alia, at the high level General Assembly meeting on HIV/AIDS, held on 22 September 2003, demonstrates the resolve of Governments and the international community to intensify implementation and cooperation in order to meet the goals and targets contained in the Declaration of Commitment,

Noting with appreciation the support for national responses provided by the United Nations system, especially the UNAIDS secretariat and co-sponsors, inter alia, for effective country-led mechanisms, including the mobilization of financial resources, the facilitation and provision of technical assistance and support to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and applicant countries, at every level of the grant-making process,

Also noting with appreciation the new strategic direction taken by UNAIDS after the five-year evaluation of the Programme by its Programme Coordinating Board, encompassing, in particular, a greater focus on national-level processes, continued global leadership and advocacy, and a focus on the gender implications of HIV/AIDS,

Encouraged that the United Nations system has made progress towards integrating the consideration of HIV/AIDS in its activities, including, inter alia,

addressing HIV/AIDS in the United Nations workplace, the appointment of HIV/AIDS focal points in peacekeeping operations and the work on guidelines for HIV/AIDS in emergency settings,

Recognizing the emergence of the World Bank Multi-country AIDS Programme and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the contributions of private foundations as important sources of new and additional funding,

Noting with concern that, although many Member States have met the 2003 targets contained in the Declaration, considerable gaps remain,

Also noting with concern that, at the current rate of implementation and fulfilment of commitments, many countries are unlikely to meet the targets for 2005,

Recognizing that many developing countries may not have the financial or human resources capacity to mount an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and, in this context, underlining the importance of international cooperation,

Noting that, despite improvement, current global resources available for HIV/AIDS are less than half of the 10 billion dollars considered necessary for an effective response in 2005 alone and that substantial new funding will be required in order to meet the global resource targets,

Also noting that intensified implementation will require partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels as well as enhanced support for human and institutional capacity development and considerably increased financial resources,

Further noting that implementation has to be intensified through partnerships at the national, regional and international levels in order to offer infected and affected people and communities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, medicines and related technology which are affordable, easy to use and readily available,

Encouraged that an increasing number of companies in the private sector are offering prevention, care and treatment services to employees and their families, while noting the need for continued efforts in this regard,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/47 of 23 April 2003,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the goals and targets contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Declaration and to their implementation;

3. *Stresses* with deep concern that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

4. *Urges* relevant United Nations organizations as well as other relevant international organizations to further support national efforts for implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and address the issue of the cost, availability and affordability of drugs and related technology;

[4] A/58/184.

5. *Also urges* Member States to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment in order to meet the goals and targets contained therein based on national plans, where they exist and, in particular, where gaps have been identified in the report of the Secretary-General by, inter alia:

(a) Providing stronger and more visible leadership in response to the epidemic;

(b) Creating an environment that encourages the engagement of and partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society, people living with HIV/AIDS, marginalized and vulnerable groups, cultural and faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, traditional health practitioners, the private sector, international institutions and the media,

(c) Strengthening policies and programmes for combating HIV/AIDS, including those relating to the protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including eliminating stigmas and discrimination against people living with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, ensuring gender equality, assisting orphans and children and expanding access to treatment, care and support;

(d) Building and scaling up a comprehensive response to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, care, treatment and support and recognizing the need to seriously address impact mitigation issues, in particular in the worst affected countries. Specifically within this context:

(i) Intensifying prevention measures, especially those directed at vulnerable groups, in particular women and young people, bearing in mind that prevention is the mainstay of the national, regional and international response;

(ii) Expanding access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and the effective use of antiretroviral medication;

(iii) Improving the provision of care and support to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans;

(iv) Mitigating the social and economic impact of the epidemic;

(v) Promoting access to low-cost and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

(vi) Strengthening health-care systems and integrating HIV/AIDS programmes into current health services;

(vii) Strengthening HIV/AIDS surveillance and systems for evaluating programme effectiveness;

(e) Strengthening pharmaceutical policies and practices, including those applicable to generic drugs and intellectual property regimes, in order to further promote innovation and the development of domestic industries consistent with international law;

(f) Intensifying training and research initiatives or programmes to strengthen the capacities of Governments to manage the epidemic;

(g) Sharing experiences and exchanging information on key areas of intervention, such as prevention, provision of care and support for HIV/AIDS-infected persons and treatment of HIV/AIDS-related conditions;

(h) Addressing the human resource crisis affecting the effective implementation of comprehensive national HIV/AIDS programmes, including supporting the development of monitoring and evaluation capacities and working at the national and international levels to generate flexible solutions;

(i) Mobilizing financial resources and providing the support necessary to ensure they are targeted effectively and absorbed quickly and deliver equitable and sustainable coverage of services, particularly to those most in need,

6. *Welcomes* with appreciation the Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha in November 2001, and the decision dated 30 August 2003 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration, on the Agreement and public health;

7. *Also welcomes* the commitment by WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to 3 million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the "3 by 5" target, recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/29 of 22 April 2003 entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria";

8. *Urges* the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources, including but not limited to additional support to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in order to address the growing need;

9. *Also urges* the provision of additional financial resources to the United Nations system, especially the UNAIDS secretariat and Co-sponsors, in order that they may intensify their support for national responses to HIV/AIDS;

10. *Emphasizes* that, with the increasing number of HIV/AIDS initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, there is a need for close coordination at all levels, including under government leadership at the national level to ensure a harmonized approach and to increase the effectiveness of the response;

11. *Encourages* the private sector to become fully engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including by adopting relevant workplace non-discrimination policies;

12. *Also encourages* the private sector and the pharmaceutical industry to contribute to the fight against AIDS by, inter alia, continuing to provide key AIDS pharmaceuticals that meet the standards of the World Health Organization, at the lowest possible prices;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability

to HIV infection, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

14. *Reiterates* the need to respond urgently to the dire situation in sub-Saharan Africa and in particular the crisis conditions in the southern African region, in order to minimize the loss of institutional capacity in key national sectors and mitigate the threat of accelerating the cycle of poverty, food insecurity, instability and heightened vulnerability to HIV/AIDS;

15. *Stresses* the need for intensified action in all regions, especially the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Asia and the Pacific;

16. *Decides* to hold a high-level meeting in 2005 to review the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment and that the scheduling, format, participation, including civil society participation, and other organizational details will be further considered during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to submit a comprehensive and analytical report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment, in particular those set out for 2005, with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, the item entitled "Follow up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS".